



## ***CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA***

The **Miami Springs Education Advisory Board** met at 6:30 p.m., on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

### **1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

The following were present: Rob Gordon  
Libby Manning  
Dr. John Salomon  
Golnaz Sami (\*arrived at 6:36 p.m.)  
Dr. Mara Zapata

Also Present: Clerical Assistant Elora R. Sakal

### **2. Approval of Minutes: May 17, 2011 Regular Meeting**

**Board member John Salomon moved to approve the minutes as written and Board member Libby Manning seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on voice vote.**

### **3. Introduction of New Board Members**

Board member Gordon welcomed Dr. Mara Zapata to the Education Advisory Board and asked if she could give a brief description of what she does.

Board member Zapata announced that she is the Chairperson of Teacher Education Programs college-wide for Miami Dade College. She was previously employed by Miami-Dade County Public Schools for approximately twenty years. She stated that she also served as a grant writer and the Director of Education of the Historical Museum.

#### **4. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair**

Board member Gordon said that Mindy McNichols had moved on after serving on the Education Advisory Board for approximately ten years.

**Board member Manning made a motion to appoint Rob Gordon as Chairman. John Salomon seconded the motion which was carried unanimously on voice vote.**

**Board member Manning made a motion to appoint John Salomon as Vice Chair. Chair Gordon seconded the motion which was carried unanimously on voice vote.**

#### **5. School Reports:**

##### **a. Introduction of New Regional and Local School Officials:**

Carmen Maranelli Maranelli, North Central Regional Superintendent, explained that Miami Springs' schools fall within the North Region District. She said that the school system moved from five to four regional offices. She discussed the location and different directors in her region office. She noted that she is working closely with the principals from all Miami Springs' schools.

Vera Hirsch, President of the Miami-Dade Foundation for Educational Innovation, Inc. commented that the School Board approved the Academy for International Education which is the first District managed Charter School. Miami Springs is the main campus which holds K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade and through many requests by the community, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade was added. She advised the Board that next year the Charter School is planned to become a K-5<sup>th</sup> grade school.

Golnaz Sami arrived at this time\*

Ms. Hirsch explained that throughout all three campuses, they will be using the Rosetta Stone program to teach students Spanish. She announced that the other two campuses could possibly become a 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade school next year.

Chair Gordon asked Ms. Hirsch if she could further discuss the languages that will be taught to the K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes.

Ms. Hirsch stated that they are teaching Spanish as a foreign language and hope to eventually add a third language for the sixth grade.

Board member Zapata asked if the language was infused within a particular content area.

Ms. Hirsch responded that they are not a Bilingual School Organization (BISO) school because there is already a BISO school in Miami Springs. They are teaching Spanish as a second language and will be working with the students to become bilingual and bi-literate.

To answer Vice Chair Salomon's question, Ms. Hirsch replied that they had advertised throughout Miami Springs and the Gazette to recruit students. Many of the parents have access to e-mails and they also made some telephone calls.

**b. Individual School Reports:**

Javier Perez, Principal at Miami Springs Middle School, gave an update on the appearance of the school. Some of the hallways were painted with the help of the Region and Region Superintendent. He said that they are in the process of receiving bids to paint the entire school.

Principal Perez also reported on various school activities, including the Science Technology Engineering Magnet (STEM), fall sports programs and clubs, and the partnership with the Easter Seals program. He also announced the Title 1 parent meetings and Open House on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

To answer Chair Gordon's question, Mr. Perez responded that he previously worked at South West Miami High School.

Vice Chair Salomon asked what the student enrollment was at Miami Springs Middle School and Mr. Perez replied that the school enrollment is currently at 1,614 students.

To answer Vice Chair Salomon's question, Mr. Perez responded that the enrollment is approximately 40 students over last year's enrollment.

Miami Springs Elementary School Principal Sally Hutchings reported that they are an A school again this year, although the school did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). She advised the Board that scores in Reading were 83% above and Writing and Math were 78%, while Science was at a 73%. The group that did not meet the AYP was in Mathematics.

Principal Hutchings reported on various curriculum assessments, including CELLA, FAIR, STAR, and Baseline Assessments. She also reported on various enrichment programs, including arts and crafts, science, dance, advanced math, painting, "Get Up and Move", strings, reading, ecology, and drama.

Principal Hutchings advised the Board that enrollment to date is 646 students. She continued reporting on the various activities taking place, including the 5<sup>th</sup> grade's first field trip to Rock Odyssey, "I Led the Pledge" at the next Council meeting, Bully Prevention on September 27<sup>th</sup>, participation in the Challenge Grant, and Jump Start Reads on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Principal Hutchings explained the P.T.A activities, including a general meeting on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, car washes, box top collections, recycled uniform sales, membership drive, panther cards, and catalog sales. She noted that for community service, their students made cards prior to the 9/11 date for the local Firefighters and Police Officers.

Board member Zapata asked what grades participate in the Advanced Science program and Ms. Hutchings replied that they are planning it for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades at least once a week from 3:05 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Principal Dovale from Springview Elementary commented that the school received the Five Star Award again for the fourth year in a row. She reported on various parent activities, including Parent Portal training on September 28<sup>th</sup>, a Parent Volunteer Workshop, Parent Drop in Day, and Open House. She advised the Board of various activities, including the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Rock Odyssey field trip, adopt a classroom program, and interventions. She explained that Springview Elementary is a provider to Supplemental Educational Service (SES) Programs. She stated that the school updated their website through funding from PTA.

Principal Dovale reported on various enrichment activities, including Spanish, arts and crafts, chess, dance, reading, math tutoring, and student government. She was very pleased to announce that Springview Elementary is an A school and met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Ms. Dovale announced the various scores for the AYP, including 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade scoring 88% in Reading, 88% in Math, 97% in Writing, and 77% in Science. Learning games were 77% in Reading and 76% in Math. Inadequate progress of the lowest 25 was 78% in Reading and 63% in Math; leaving a grand total of 624 points.

Vice Chair Salomon congratulated Ms. Dovale for having a beautiful Open House; the atmosphere was very welcoming and friendly. He asked what the current enrollment was and Ms. Dovale replied that currently the school has 475 students and at the end of the last school year there were 498 students or approximately 30 less.

Board member Manning asked how the class sizes were and Ms. Dovale responded that their class sizes are fine. Kindergarten has eighteen students per class, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade have between 16-18 students per class and their main issue is with the gifted 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes because the school currently has 125 gifted students.

Board member Golnaz asked how many gifted teachers are generated and Ms. Dovale replied that they have generated six gifted teachers.

Carmen ~~Maraneli~~ Maranelli, North Central Regional Superintendent, advised the Board that they are still looking at the budget on a weekly basis. The school allocations will be adjusted next week and they are based on the enrollment. The goal is to reach the 18, 22, and 25 classroom limits without moving children around classes.

Principal Thomas Ennis from Miami Springs Senior High School reported on various activities, including the Fairchild Challenge, Anchor Club being awarded the 2012 International Anchor Club for the second year in a row, Academy of Hospitality and Tourism receiving one of eight Academy Awards, Mu Alpha Theta placing 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation, the Football team being 0-2, the Golf team being 4-1, and Volleyball team being 1-3.

Mr. Ennis reported on FCAT scores. He noted that they came in at a “C” with 453 points and hope on the other 800 points. The 800 points encompasses graduation rate, readiness, and acceleration. He stated that they did not make AYP and the school grade was moved down to a B. Their Advanced Placement (AP) passing rates came in as 39% passing three and above which is very competitive.

Board member Manning asked if she could see that report and Mr. Ennis replied that he will email her the City Clerk the courses and rates.

Vice Chair Salomon asked what the enrollment is and Mr. Ennis responded that they are currently up 80 students.

Board member Zapata asked Mr. Ennis if the instructional reviews for AP were in specific content areas. Mr. Ennis responded that they are cross curricular.

To answer Board member Zapata’s question, Mr. Ennis stated that the service projects are service learning tied to curriculum and some of the points go to community service through the Anchor Club.

Chair Gordon asked how the strand of courses for Science, Technology, and Mathematics were doing and Mr. Ennis replied that it is doing fairly well.

Golnaz Sami introduced herself at this time.

Chair Gordon explained that a lot of communities support advanced programs in Mathematics and Sciences. He noted that it seems that there may be a feeder system at both the private and public schools that could feed great students into the high school.

Ms. ~~Maraneli~~ Maranelli advised the board that one of their goals in the Region is to look at feeder pattern continuity between the work that has begun in the Elementary Schools.

Board member Zapata asked if there would be a possibility of pursuing funding if it was identified.

Ms. ~~Maraneli~~ Maranelli replied that they do look for partnerships and would work with partners if they are identified.

## **6. PTA/PTSA Reports:**

Susan Baan, PTA President at Miami Springs Middle School, Vice President for Miami Springs High School and Dade County PTA Feeder Pattern Representative reported various accomplishments and activities, including new patio tables, a welcome back breakfast for the teachers, t-shirt sales, Title 1 meeting, and a Papa John's membership drive.

## **7. Business/Reports**

### **a. Art in Public Places to Raise Funds for Schools**

Vice Chair Salomon explained that there are plans to hold a large Art in Public Places event in Miami Springs to help raise funds for local Public Schools. He asked that the parents, PTA, Principals, and students get involved in this event to help support and fund the local Public Schools.

Heather Bettner, CEO/President of Prince Media Development explained the different projects that she is working on in South Miami and in Pinecrest. She noted that she spoke with Council and explained the art project and she believes that they are going to allow this project to take place.

Ms. Bettner commented that they came up with the idea of calling the event "Soaring in Miami Springs". Along with the tag line, she would like to create energy, a feeling of upward momentum, and success. She stated that it is also a take of the aviation history that Miami Springs holds. She felt that the most prolific figure that could be used would be the Eagle.

Ms. Bettner mentioned that they plan on creating twenty sculptures that would be placed in public right-of-ways and private right-of-ways in Miami Springs sponsored by private companies. She has already received some sponsors for this project. She advised the Board and audience that this project encompasses all the school principals and PTA's to really get the children involved. She asked for help from the PTA's to find sponsors for each school in Miami Springs. She reported that the expected launch date of the sculptures would be on July 4, 2012.

Discussion ensued regarding the various artists Ms. Bettner is hoping to have participate in this project.

PTA member Susan Baan explained that Miami Springs Middle School created an aerial sculpture of an eagle that was made out of students.

To answer Principal Dovale's question, Ms. Bettner clarified that the art teachers would be able to get involved. She gave the principals her contact information and stated that any interested art teachers can contact her and she will provide them with all the information.

Chair Gordon asked Ms. Bettner if she would coordinate the communication with the schools and Ms. Bettner replied that she will communicate with the schools and she has asked Vice Chair Salomon for the e-mails of each Board member.

Ms. Bettner explained that she will be attending each monthly meeting to give an update on the project status.

Vice Chair Salomon advised the Board and audience that during the Council meeting, City Attorney Seiden stated that they could open a non-profit fund for the City so citizens who wish to make donations can make their checks payable to that fund.

Board member Zapata asked if this was going to benefit only the Public Schools in the community or both and Ms. Bettner replied that it is benefiting just the Public Schools.

Board member Manning introduced some of the faculty from different schools.

#### **b. All Angels Academy Victory Gardens Presentation by Denis Albiza and Suzy Gard**

Chair Gordon commented that he purchased two books called “The Edible School Yard” and distributed one copy to each of the Elementary Schools. The gardening movement has a lot of benefits as far as education goes so he came in contact with Denise Albiza and Suzy Gard who have a movement to create a community garden as well.

Denise Albiza explained that the victory garden that they are currently doing at All Angels is part of a large inter-disciplinary project. They have selected World War II as their theme and decided to make it a year long project. She noted that they had already begun working with the students and have written letters to local businesses for donations. They are going to teach them not only about healthy eating but sustainability as well.

Ms. Albiza reported various ways that education will be combined with the Victory Garden project, including math, science, and technology with a weather station, and web cameras.

Suzy Gard explained various subjects the students will be learning throughout the Victory Garden project, including, measuring, using different soils, canning the extra vegetables, and safety procedures.

Board member Zapata commented that she loved the idea and how it was tied to curriculum. She noted that Miami Dade College North Campus Early Education center has a vegetable garden that produces excess amounts of vegetables that they give away.

**c. Youth Advisory Council**

Board member Manning said that she will follow up with Council to see if they passed the Youth Advisory Council.

**d. Advanced Academics Committee**

Chair Gordon stated that he will have more to report on this topic at the next meeting.

**e. Education Advisory Board Goals**

Board member Manning noted that the new board members should read the previous board minutes as this topic was already discussed and then give their own feed back at the next meeting.

**f. Legislative Issues**

Iraida Mendez-Cartaya, Assistant Superintendent from Inter-Governmental Affairs Grants Administration and Community Engagement, explained that the School Board of Miami Dade has adopted its Legislative platform for this upcoming Legislative session.

Ms. Mendez-Cartaya stated that the current fiscal year is the fifth consecutive year that the School Board of Miami Dade County has effectuated reductions. They have effectuated \$108MM of reductions without eliminating teaching positions. She reported on various revenue sources, including state revenues, tax proceeds, stabilization funds, jobs for education, and base student allocation.

Ms. Mendez-Cartaya explained the various funding priorities that the Board has outlined for the upcoming Legislative session, including investing a percentage of dollars to education as the state's economy recovers and grows, replacing "Jobs for Education" funds embedded in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) with state revenue, and maintaining the current required employers' contribution rate to the Florida Retirement System by absorbing the planned increase for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Ms. Mendez-Cartaya mentioned different ways of Capital Funding, including extending the term of general obligation bonds from 20 years to 30 years, expanding the allowable use to include operating expenses that maintain, renovate or repair existing school facilities, or maintain, secure or upgrade school technology equipment, and fully funding provisions of Florida Statute 1013.64 pertaining to funding of the Public Education Capital Outlay Program (PECO) that involves constructions and maintenance programs of the public school districts.



Ms. Mendez Cartaya explained that there is a process that school districts across the state use to co-enroll students. She noted that she would like for the continuation to allow co-enrollment as a strategy for high school students who need credit recovery or need to improve their cumulative grade point average for graduation purposes.

**g. Discussion Regarding Cancellation of October and November Meetings due to Elevator Repair at City Hall**

Chair Gordon would like to continue to meet for the months of October and November and Board member Manning agreed.

**8. Other**

Board member Manning discussed the STEM program and asked if the board should send a letter of recommendation to Council.

Chair Gordon stated that the community supports the idea and the next step should be for Council to also agree to send a letter to the District so they are aware of it.

Board member Zapata advised the Board that those sites are District selected based on the lists of criteria, so therefore Miami Springs may not meet the criteria.

Chair Gordon commented that there may not be enough funding available to have the STEM program. He recommended a better way of going about it is by saying they would like a National Academy Foundation ~~Academy~~ in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics at the high school to get closer to the actual STEM program.

Ms. Mendez-Cartaya explained that as communities are becoming more demanding in regard to the types of programming that they want to see in their schools and in a time of limited resources for the school district, the two parties basically have been negotiating those kinds of potential program enhancements that the municipalities would compensate for. Part of the discussion has also been that the cities may have bonding capacities that the school district does not.

Discussion ensued regarding whether or not Miami Springs would be able to maintain a magnet program.

**Board member Zapata made a motion that the Board prepare and submit a letter to the City Council expressing ideas to move forward to committing to partner with the School System. Vice Chair Salomon seconded the motion which was carried unanimously on voice vote.**

Board member Manning commended Mindy McNichols for her time spent on the Education Advisory Board. She recommended that Council recognize her for her ten years of service to the Board.

**Board member Manning made a motion that City Council recognize Mindy McNichols for her ten years of effort with the Education Advisory Board. Vice Chair Salomon seconded the motion which was carried unanimously on voice vote.**

## **9. Adjourn**

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Elora R. Sakal  
Clerk of the Board

Approved as amended at meeting of 10-18-2011:

Page 2, paragraph 4  
Page 4, last paragraph  
Page 5, paragraphs 3, 10, and 12  
Page 9, paragraph 6

\*\*\*\*\*  
**The comments, discussions, recommendations and proposed actions of City Citizen Advisory Boards do not constitute the policy, position, or prospective action of the City, which may only be established and authorized by an appropriate vote or other action of the City Council.**  
\*\*\*\*\*